MARVEL

2

AARON
KIRK
FAJARDO JR.
PEPOSE
VITTI
YING
CRESTA

STAR WARS™

DARTH VADER

BLACK, WHITE & RED

When Anakin Skywalker turned to the dark side, he became Darth Vader, one of the most powerful Sith of all time. In his service to the evil Galactic Empire, he has left a trail of destruction and terror, striking fear into the hearts of millions across the galaxy....

STAR WARS™ DARTH VADER

BLACK, WHITE & RED

"HARD SHUTDOWN PART 2"

JASON AARON writer • LEONARD KIRK artist

ROMULO FAJARDO JR. color artist

'THE ENDLESS MERCY"

DAVID PEPOSE writer • ALESSANDRO VITTI artist

"POWER"

VICTORIA YING writer • MARIKA CRESTA artist

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The Outer Rim. The Horox system. Abandoned ore-mining moon HS-197.

"HI. YOU RECEIVING ME ALL RIGHT? IF THINGS ARE FEELING A BIT *HAZY*, LET ME HELP YOU GET YOURSELF RECOMBOBULATED."

MY FATHER, *DOCTOR VIG SENDVALL*, WAS A RENOWNED *CYBERNETIC SURGEON* WHEN HE WAS REQUISITIONED BY THE EMPIRE TO SERVE ON THE SECRET TEAM OF SCIENTISTS WHO WOULD GIVE BIRTH TO THE GALAXY'S GREATEST WEAPON.

YOU.

HE SPOKE OF YOU WITH SUCH *PRIDE.*

YOUR SYSTEMS WERE PERFECT, HE SAID. INCORRUPTIBLE. *UNBREACHABLE.*

HE SAID THESE THINGS WHILE HE *CARVED* ME APART, TRYING TO MAKE ME MORE LIKE YOU.

ONE DAY, WHEN I WAS 12, AND HE WAS REPLACING MY FINGER BONES WITH DURASTEEL RODS, I DECIDED I WOULD MAKE IT MY *LIFE'S WORK...*

...TO RUIN HIS.

"HARD SHUTDOWN part 2"

Jason Aaron - writer • Leonard Kirk - artist
Romulo Fajardo Jr. - colorist

I DID WHAT FATHER SAID WAS ***IMPOSSIBLE,*** LORD VADER.

I OBSESSED OVER HIS BLUEPRINTS AND WORK JOURNALS UNTIL I FOUND THE TINIEST OF ***FLAWS*** IN YOUR SYSTEMS. AND FIGURED OUT HOW TO ***EXPLOIT*** THEM.

YOUR MOTOR FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY ***NEUTRALIZED.*** BUT YOUR NEURAL RECEPTORS REMAIN ACTIVE.

THAT MEANS YOU CAN HEAR ME. AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY...

...YOU CAN ***FEEL*** WHAT'S ABOUT TO BE DONE TO YOU...

WHRRR

...AS WE CARVE YOU UP AND SELL YOU FOR PARTS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

WHAT?
I...I CAN'T... MOVE MY ARMS...
NO...NO, NO, NO.
SHUT DOWN BRAIN FUNCTIONS! *NOW!*
WHAT'S HAPPENING?! I'M NOT DOING THIS!
WE'VE LOST NEURAL SYSTEMS!
LOOK OUT! I CAN'T CONTROL IT!

AAAAAAEEERRRGGGH!

EVERYONE, OUT! WE'LL SEAL OFF THE ROOM!

THNNNG

CYN! OPEN THE DOORS!

I CAN'T! I DIDN'T CLOSE THEM!

CYYYYN! HRREEEGGH!!!

GKKGHK!

GARRRGGHKK!

HE'S...HE'S *KILLING* THEM. HOW IS HE--?

THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD! WE HAVE TO *BURN* THE WHOLE ROOM! USE THE BUILDING'S DEFENSES!

THE *INCINERATORS!* WE'LL USE THE--

OH NO.

EEEEIIIGHH!!!

HE'S USING THE SITHSPITTING *FORCE!*

THIS IS CYN! *EVACUATE THE BUILDING!*

HHRRRGH... CYN...HELP...

WHAT HAPPENED?! HE...HE WOKE UP? VADER IS *ACTIVE?!*

NEGATIVE. PROTOCOLS REMAIN INTACT. I'M STILL NEUTRALIZING HIS MOTOR FUNCTIONS FROM HERE.

SET UP A PERIMETER OUT OF RANGE OF HIS FORCE POWERS.

IF PROTOCOLS ARE SO INTACT, THEN WHY IS OUR ENTIRE CREW IN THERE *SCREAMING?!*

YOU SAID HE WOULD BE IMMOBILIZED!

HE IS!

"SO YOU MEAN...HE DID *ALL* OF THIS...

"...TURNED OUR CHOP SHOP INTO A SLAUGHTERHOUSE...

"...WITHOUT SO MUCH AS LIFTING A *FINGER?*"

"HE'S *DARTH VADER.*

"HE'S EXACTLY WHAT MY FATHER BUILT HIM TO BE.

"BUT SO AM *I.* LET'S GET TO WORK."

"MILORD...WE'VE FOUND THE SHIP.

"*PHIAL-CLASS* HEAVY TRANSPORT--DESIGNATED THE ***ENDLESS MERCY.***

"WE'VE RECEIVED INTELLIGENCE OF A BIOWEAPON BEING DEVELOPED IN SECRET...

"...BY A FORMER *TAGGE CORP.* ENGINEER NAMED *DOCTOR SERA LEMARE.*

"AN ADMIRER OF ***KAMINOAN*** TECHNOLOGY, LEMARE RECENTLY ESCAPED WITH A CACHE OF STOLEN GENETIC SPECIMENS.

"SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE PRODUCED A PERFECT KILLING MACHINE THAT COULD CHANGE THE BALANCE OF THE WAR...

SHZRAK!

A BOLD CLAIM, SERGEANT...

...BUT THE PERFECT KILLING MACHINE HAS ALREADY BEEN ENGINEERED.

THOOOOM!

"THE ENDLESS MERCY"
David Pepose - writer • Alessandro Vitti - artist

LORD VADER--WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?

LIFE SUPPORT IS AT 27 PERCENT--THE SHIP'S NAVIGATION SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN OFFLINE FOR DAYS.

STAY VIGILANT AND SECURE THE AREA...

...THERE ARE CLEARLY OTHERS AFTER HER RESEARCH.

WHAT THE--?

NO-- SOMETHING'S GOT ME!

HRNN-- BELAY THAT ORDER, TROOPERS...

VMMMMMMMM

...IT APPEARS DOCTOR LEMARE'S RESEARCH HAS ALREADY FOUND US.

HISSSSSSSS!

RRAAAAAAAAGH--!

LZZRAK!

AIIIIIEEEEEEE--!

ZRAP PAPPAP PAPP!

KRNCH!

LORD VADER, WE'RE BEING-- GAAH!

SPLAKK!

HNH--PERHAPS YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM OUTNUMBERED.

ONE CREATURE OR ONE THOUSAND...

...NOTHING CAN DEFEAT THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE.

VMMVMMMVMMVMM

THOOOOOM

RAAIIIIEEEEE--!

NNF--!

THRAKK!

HAFF-- DO YOU HEAR ME?!

IF I AM DESTINED TO DIE THIS DAY...

"...THEN I SHALL TAKE YOU ALL DOWN WITH ME."

RNNN... WHERE AM I?

TH-THEY BROUGHT US TO THEIR L-LAIR, LORD VADER...

I TH-TH-THINK THEY'RE GOING TO EAT US.

I DON'T F-FEEL RIGHT--THEY D-DID SOMETHING TO M-ME...

S-SIR-- I WOULD GLADLY D-D-DIE FOR THE EMPIRE...

...BUT PL-PLEASE... N-NOT LIKE THIS.

AS YOU WISH, SERGEANT...

...KNOW THAT YOU SHALL BE AVENGED.

FWPP!

ZZRAKK!

SHZRAKK!

HRRRR--?

FAILING TO MIND YOUR SURROUNDINGS WAS YOUR SECOND MISTAKE, CREATURE...

TSSSSSSS!

YOUR FIRST WAS LETTING ME LIVE.

KRSSSCHT

THE OTHERS WERE MERELY PRACTICE...

"...NOW IT IS TIME TO DISPATCH THEIR QUEEN."

HSSSSSS-- I CAN SMELL YOUR HATRED, LITTLE SITH LORD...

...JUST AS EASILY AS I CAN TASTE YOUR SUFFERING.

I KNOW YOUR MIND, DARTH VADER-- YOU DO NOT WISH TO BETRAY YOUR QUEEN...

...NOT WHEN I HAVE BEQUEATHED YOU THE MOST EXQUISITE GIFT OF ALL.

NYARRRGH--!

MMMMMMMMM

NNFF-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

WHAT IS IT THAT TROUBLES YOU, LORD VADER? SURELY YOU MUST RECOGNIZE ME...

DOCTOR SERA LEMARE, AT YOUR SERVICE.

"FOR YEARS, I WAS FORCED TO USE SCAVENGED FARMING EQUIPMENT TO PERFECT MY *Z'RAKKON* HYBRIDIZATION...

"YET NOTHING COULD PREPARE ME FOR THE SHEER RAPTURE OF FINALLY TESTING MY PROCEDURE ON LIVING SUBJECTS.

"AFTER WATCHING MY CREW TEAR THEMSELVES APART, I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO EMBARK UPON ANOTHER ROLE...

"...TRANSFORMING MYSELF INTO THE QUEEN OF OUR NEWFOUND HIVE MIND."

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU NOW?

IN THIS COLD AND UNFEELING UNIVERSE, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE MERCY...

NOW YOU WILL JOIN THE HIVE IN MIND, BODY AND SOUL...

...AND YOU SHALL NEVER BE ALONE AGAIN.

GRAHH--!

SHKRAK-T!

IF THE EMPEROR'S PET CAN FALL TO THE Z'RAKKON, NONE SHALL STAND AGAINST-- EH?

FOOSH!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

FOOLISH SITH--NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THE HIVE MIND!

HAFF-- SO YOU CLAIM, CREATURE.

BUT I SHALL TEACH YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS.

BECAUSE ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN THE DARK SIDE.

SHRRIPP!

YOU HAVE SOWED MUCH CHAOS WITH YOUR ACTIONS, DOCTOR LEMARE...

RRRRRNNKK

PL-PLEASE-- I BEG YOU, LORD VADER, SPARE ME--!

BUT TRUE POWER...IS THE CAPACITY TO INSTILL ORDER.

AARRRRRRRRRGH--!

SHNNNKK!

NNGG--Y-YOU D-DON'T UNDERSTAND...

F-FOR ALL YOUR TORMENT...I WAS TR-TRYING TO BRING YOU P-PEACE.

THEN YOUR LIFE'S WORK WAS NOTHING BUT A FUTILE GESTURE...

RMMMBBBBBBBBBB

NO--!

AHOGAH

BUT IT IS ONE THAT I SHALL RESPOND TO IN KIND.

"IF THE *ENDLESS MERCY* IS TRULY THE VESSEL OF YOUR DELIVERANCE...

FWOOOOOOOM!

"...THEN LET IT SERVE NOW AS YOUR TOMB."

KRAKADOOOOOOOM!

THE ONLY PEACE IN THIS GALAXY IS DEATH ITSELF, DOCTOR.

WHEREVER THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS SUFFERING--AND THE DARK SIDE SHALL ALWAYS ENDURE.

The end.

HURRY BACK. WE'LL PRACTICE SOME GLYPHS WHEN YOU RETURN. MAYBE EVEN SOME NEW ONES.

PROMISE?

PROMISE.

"POWER"

Victoria Ying - writer
Marika Cresta - artist

Later...

HOW'S YOUR MA?

SHE'S FINE, SIR. JUST EAGER TO GET OUR FUNDS FOR THE SEASON.

THE SUNS ARE STILL UP! MAYBE WE'LL MANAGE THREE NEW GLYPHS TONIGHT!

IF IT ISN'T LITTLE ***NIKO*** DRAGGING YOUR FILTHY POVVO PEEDUNKEY INTO TOWN AGAIN. I THOUGHT I WARNED YOU ABOUT COMING ON OUR TURF.

WE WARNED YOU. WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT ISN'T OUR FAULT, YOU KNOW.

YOU DON'T OWN THESE STREETS, ***NOEGAUD***. THE ***EMPIRE*** DOES.

AS IF THE EMPIRE HAS EVER SET FOOT HERE. YOU KNOW WHO REALLY RULES THIS TOWN.

EVEN SO, I KNOW IT'S NOT YOU.

I WOULD BE VERY CAREFUL WITH YOUR NEXT WORDS.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU. EVEN WITH YOUR FANCY SCHOOLING, YOU CAN'T EVEN READ. MOTHER SAYS WE SHOULD NEVER BE AFRAID OF ILLITERATE LAYABOUTS.

HE'S GOT YOU THERE, BOSS.

OOOOH!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART, DO YOU? GUESS WHAT? SMARTS DON'T MEAN ANYTHING HERE IN THE OUTER RIM. POWER DOES.

OOF!

GET HIM.

CAN'T COME SELL YOUR CRAPPY WATER WITHOUT THIS.

NO!

THAT SHOULD SHOW HIM.

WE'RE NOT DONE WITH HIM YET.

THOSE DOLTS. THEY REALLY THOUGHT THAT WOULD BREAK THE RICKSHAW?

WE'LL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES LATE GETTING HOME.

AHH!

MA!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! IT JUST... SUDDENLY...

YOU...

PEW!

THE EMPIRE! IT'S THE *STORMTROOPERS!*

CITIZENS. HAND OVER THE *REBEL FUGITIVE* OR WE WILL BE FORCED TO LEVEL THIS VILLAGE.

PEW PEW!

AHHH!

PEW!

GAH!

NO! PLEASE!

WE HAVE TO MOVE!

VMMMMMMMM

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO!

WHERE IS THE FUGITIVE?

PLEASE, HE'S AN INNOCENT CHILD! WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

NOEGAUD WAS RIGHT... THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS... IS *POWER*.

The end.

NEXT

Daniel Warren Johnson helps bring Darth Vader to life like never before!
Marc Bernardin brings us along with Vader on a mission you won't soon forget!

PLUS: The penultimate chapter of Jason Aaron and Leonard Kirk's Vader deconstruction!

ISSUE THREE COMING SOON

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